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Very good – generally correct –

An
Inaugural dissertation
On
Pneumonia Typhoides
By
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of
North Carolina

Passed March 26th
1825

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In the latter part of December Eighteen hundred and twenty One; a disease of unusual malignity made its appearance, in the Vicinity of the University of North Carolina; the place of my residence: and from my own observation, I believe it to be that, which a few years ago pervaded a large portion of the United States, under the name Pneumonic Typhoides. — Like other epidemics, it assumed a variety of shapes:- Sometimes it exhibited no more than the ordinary symptoms of common catarrh; at other times it attacked with most of the symptoms of Pneumonia; in some cases it affected the throat in the form of Quinsy; and in many cases it appeared with an affection of the head so violent, as to resemble Phrenitis in some degree. Notwithstanding the various

forms in which it appeared, the fever attending was in a large majority of cases a species of typhus; at least I am confident that few cases occurred, in which the antiphlogistic plan of treatment, was for any time persisted in without manifest injury to the patient. On the other hand it may be confidently asserted, that no class of remedies except those, calculated to remove debility, or counteract the evils incident to a typhous condition of the system, could be relied on as decidedly and ultimately beneficial. — — —

Whatever form the disease assumed, it generally commenced with a chill, succeeded by alternate sensations of heat and cold; and accompanied with a sense of extreme debility; the chilliness in some cases, continuing for a day

or two; while in others it did not go off until the disease gave way. — In a few cases of excessive malignity, the coldness remained until death ensued. One case of the kind came under my own immediate observation; in which the patient was hurried off in twenty four hours. — During the coldness, which ushered in the complaint, there was frequently violent pain in the head, attended with considerable nausea, and sometimes with vomiting. The last mentioned symptom appeared to be most troublesome, when the head was most violently affected. The matter discharged by vomiting, was sometimes bilious; at other times only a viscid phlegm, mixed with the common contents of

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the stomach. — A diarrhoea now and then attended the disease, and was generally an unfavourable symptom. As the disorder, made its first appearance in the throat; it often descended into the chest in a day or two; producing a suffocating cough, and very laborious breathing: when the pain deserted the throat and fixed itself in the head, about the fourth day, death soon followed. When the breast was the seat of the disorder, the patient complained of pain in some part of the thorax, sometimes in the right, and sometimes in the left side; but most frequently about the centre of the sternum. The pain was seldom very acute, often so inconsiderable, as not to be constantly felt or

observed. In the pleuritic form, a cough generally attended, which fatigued the patient much without relieving him; and in most cases seemed to have little or no effect, except that of increasing the shortness and anxiety of breathing, which incessantly aggravated the sufferings of the patient. — Delirium was less frequent in this disease, than in any other of equal violence I have ever witnessed. In weak and relaxed constitutions, there was often a large effusion of mucous in the bronchiæ of the lungs, which gave rise to a loose cough, and as the disease advanced, and the respiration became more difficult created a rattling in the throat many hours before death. — In more vigorous constitutions the cough was less, sometimes dry and hoarse. —

the greater the action, and fatigue attending the cough, in general the greater was the danger. The disease when it attacked the throat, was for the most part attended (particularly when it was violent) with considerable swelling of one or both sides of the neck externally. When this swelling extended to one or both sides of the chest, and presented a livid appearance; the greatest danger was to be apprehended. The throat was more or less tumefied, and inflamed; but the lining membrane, instead of presenting a florid or crimson colour discovered a dark or umber coloured redness, with ulceration and pain. Aphthous spots or pimples occasionally occurred on the fauces; but small, deep and ragged excoriations of the membrane, were by far the most frequent appearances exhibited.

The internal swelling of the throat was a bloom alarming; as at least it was proceeded to such a degree, as to produce suffocation. After the had bandwinepipe abated, the swelling of the face, was in many cases so great, as to close one or both eyes in a few hours. In a majority of cases the tongue was moist, inclining to a leaden or yellow colour; towards the root of it the colour seemed to become gradually more yellow. In some instances it was dry and brown, and in others it assumed a black or livid appearance. The dimorphical forms of this disease, presented a correspondent diversity in the pulse. — In cases affecting the throat and breast, the pulse was often much full and throbbing, without hardness or tension.

Sometimes it was small, inclining to hardness, with a thread of tension; and yielding readily to the slightest pressure; at other times particularly in the disease referred to a local issue, the volume of the arteries began to diminish, the pulse intermitted, and continued to beat irregularly, until the patient expired. — In cases affecting the head with pain, the pulse was quick and weak. When the heart was more violently affected, it was quick, weak and undulating. When this last kind of pulse existed, there generally occurred an obstinate coldness in the extremities, and on the surface of the body, with shivering and sighing. In some of the more manageable forms of the disease, the pulse was sometimes so nearly natural, that it required

considerable attention to distinguish it from a healthy pulse; but upon very minute examination, it was found quick, yielding, and compressible.— Another peculiarity of the pulse sometimes occurred, in which from its frequency no interval could be perceived; the artery here seemed ~~[illegible]~~ to be constantly contracting, so that before one contraction was completed, another had begun. This confused and tumultuous action of the pulse, was frequently attended with great giddiness, and dimness of vision, distraction and alienation of mind, involuntary discharges, and death soon closed the scene. Respiration was affected in all the most malignant forms of this disease and the degree of danger appeared to be determined by the greater or less dis-

angement of the important functions.
(In the worst form of this disease, the breathing was more or less hoarse, laborious, and imperfect; the lungs were affected, to a great and natural expansion —
(In the milder form the respiration although not so often affected, as to be laborious, or distressing, was always marked and sometimes irregular.—
(In cases of a still milder nature, respiration, together with the pulse and appetite, remained unchanged, or but little impaired.— (In these latter cases the disease was most frequently confined to the throat and head, or to the head and eyes. The skin whether hot or cold, was generally dry in this disease at its commencement. About the termination of it according to the event

there was an universal diaphoresis, or a more profuse perspiration, confined to the head, neck, and trunk of the body. — The urine was but little changed in color, in quantity it was somewhat increased. — The duration of the disease was always uncertain at office, several passed in a short time, but some cases continued eight or nine days; most commonly it terminated fatally about the fourth or fifth day. — Of the remote cause of this disease, but little is ascertained; in common with other epidemics, its origin is involved in obscurity. — Of it regards the exciting causes, they consist in violence and a tendency to induce debility of the system; such as exposure to sudden transitions of temperature, errors in diet, excessive indulgence in the use of spirituous liquors

violent exercise, deprivation of necessary sleep, finally every thing which has a tendency, either directly or indirectly to induce debility, or weaken the vital powers of the system. — —

In the treatment of this formidable disease, much may be gained by our attention to the symptoms. Of the milder forms of it in which I have seldom failed to observe, the most manifest indications of typhus — almost invaziably after a moderate evacuation of the stomach and alimentary canal, resorted to anodynes stimulant and tonic cordials. —

Some cases of a more severe nature terminated favourably under the same treatment, accommodated to the relative severity of the symptoms, and in cases of extreme violence, the malignity and

rapid progress of the disease was such as to baffle the most skilful exertions. When called upon to prescribe for a patient, our first attention should be directed to the state of the pulse, and respiration, and our first care should be to restore warmth to the skin. To effect this purpose it was necessary to order a mixture of Volatile Spts of Ammonia and Dangerie's Elixir, every two or three hours, with a cup of warm whey, or strong snake root tea between the doses. Should the pulse not become stronger in a day or two, in cases requiring stronger stimuli brandy toddy should be used as a constant drink. The Volatile Alkali Camphor and other powerful stimulants were given with the most beneficial effects, from the first attack of the disease. ——

Under the use of these remedies with the occasional use of anodynes, and the judicious use of nutriment, the patient soon began to amend and finally recovered. Instead of the Volatile Spts. of Ammonia, and paregoric, a combination of the Carbonate and Camphor in pills, was often given with the same beneficial effects. When the disease was attended, with swelling and inflammation of the throat, not having a very malignant character; a strong Volatile Liniment warm fomentations with Vinegar, or flannel wet with Spts. of Turpentine, was found serviceable. Blisters added to these were highly beneficial; and seldom failed when accompanied with corresponding general remedies to produce salutary results the same

external applications, together with the local detraction of blood by cups, and likewise the same constitutional treatment was equally beneficial in cases affecting the breast; provided the patient's breathing was not convulsive or laborious, (a circumstance generally dangerous and often fatal.) Opium with Volatile Alkali, and brandy freely given appeared in such cases to afford the only relief. The warm bath, and a variety of warm applications in addition to the remedies already mentioned have been often and extensively used. In the early stage of the disease, when the head was affected with a swelling of the face and eyes, and a superficial redness of the body; these remedies proved eminently useful. —

Of the advantage of general bleeding in this disease, I have had but little experience. In the hands of some practitioners I have reason to believe it proved mischievous. Owing to the great tendency to syncope, purging when carried to any extent, often proved hurtful, and even fatal. — Emetics were by far more clearly indicated, and were resorted to in the early stage of the disease, with singular advantage. The large portion of diaphoretics and expectorants were often resorted to in vain, but if diaphoresis was induced the happiest results were anticipated — though whenever our attempts to bring on easy expectoration and natural diaphoresis, and implicitly relies on such common auxiliaries

will often be disappointed. —
They must be preceded by med-
icines calculated to sustain the
vascular action and excitement
of the system: